

lower jaw. Ears rounded, very large. Feet five-toed, slender, elongate, especially in the hind limb. All the under surface of the foot naked or covered with very short hairs. Tail about half the length of the body, somewhat slender, covered with very short hairs.

Pelage similar to that of *Hylomys suillus dorsalis*, Thomas, composed of two sorts of hair, but the general tint inclining to reddish yellow. The majority of the hairs are of a deep reddish yellow (grey at their base); long black hairs (longer and more scattered, lighter at their points) project beyond the reddish hairs, and are much more numerous on the back, less abundant on the flanks. Beneath of a greyish white. Ears (with very short hairs) and feet of a more or less deep brown; the fore feet tinted with reddish on their anterior face. Soles of feet with six tubercles ranged two and two.

Dimensions.—Head and body 115 millim.; head 35 millim.; ear 15 millim.; tail 55 millim.; tarsus 26 millim.; naked part of the tibia 15 millim.; basal length of the skull 30 millim., greatest breadth 15 millim.

Seven specimens in skin with their skulls.

Hab. Ta-t sien-lou, province of Se-tchouen (China Occidental), at an altitude of 2545 metres. Sent by the Catholic Mission of Ta-t sien-lou, under the direction of Mgr. Biet, Apostolic Bishop of Tibet.

Later on I shall give a more complete description of this interesting type, accompanied by figures.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalaenæ in the British Museum. Vol. VIII. *Catalogue of the Noctuidæ.* By Sir GEORGE F. HAMPSON, Bart. London: Printed by Order of the Trustees. 8vo. Pp. xiv, 583; pls. cxxiii.—cxxxvi., and 162 figures in the text. (Text, price 15s.; plates, 12s.)

THE appearance of a new volume of this gigantic work is now almost an annual event, and frequenters of the insect-room at the British Museum must often admire the quiet persistency with which the indefatigable author pursues his work, year in and year out, allowing nothing to divert his attention from it for an instant. In the preface to the present volume Professor Harmer tells us:—"The subject of Vol. VIII. of the 'Catalogue of Moths' is the second part of the Noctuid subfamily *Acronyctinæ*: it contains 720 species belonging to 104 genera as compared with 843 species belonging to 96 genera in Vol. VII., leaving 171 genera to be dealt with in the third and final part of the subfamily, which it is hoped will appear

before the end of the current year." The preface to vol. vii. is dated Nov. 23rd, 1908, and that of vol. viii. March 18th, 1909, thus leaving a period of less than five months between the dates of appearance of these two volumes!

Sir G. F. Hampson's arrangement of the Noctuidæ differs considerably from that of previous authors, and the genera referred to the *Acronyctinæ* in the present volume include, in addition to *Acronycta* and its immediate allies, many well-known British and European genera usually placed in other groups. Among these we may mention *Simyra*, *Laphygma*, *Xylomyges*, *Stilbia*, *Petilampa*, &c.

We have no need to remark on the general character of the letterpress and illustrations, as we have frequently done so before. We need only say that the high standard of previous volumes appears to be well maintained throughout.

Illustrations of African Blood-sucking Flies other than Mosquitoes and Tsetse-Flies. By ERNEST EDWARD AUSTEN, Assistant in the Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History). With coloured figures by Grace Edwards. London, 1909. Printed by Order of the Trustees. Roy. 8vo. Pp. xv, 221; col. pls. xiii. Price 27s. 6d.

THE dissemination of serious diseases by flies has been known for a long period, but it is only within the last few years that its extent and importance has been realized. The present volume is one of a series, suggested by Mr. C. O. Waterhouse, which the Trustees have undertaken to elucidate the increasingly important study of blood-sucking Diptera. Of this series four volumes of a Monograph of Mosquitoes, by Mr. F. V. Theobald, have been published, and a fifth is promised, while Mr. Austen has published a volume on tsetse-flies. The volume before us contains an account of African Diptera (North Africa, except Egypt, being excluded) belonging to the families Chironomidæ, Psychodidæ, Simuliidæ, Tabanidæ, Muscidæ, and Hippoboscidæ, illustrated by excellent coloured figures of 102 species. Technical descriptions of the species figured are omitted; but general observations on the families, genera, and species are given, with full particulars, as far as known, on the habits, localities, &c. of the species.

The book will be extremely useful in coordinating our present knowledge of the subject, and in furnishing a solid foundation for further observations; while even from the less important standpoint of systematic entomology the figures will be of great value to students of the Diptera.

In Chapter VIII. we have a list of African blood-sucking flies at present known (exclusive of mosquitoes and tsetse-flies), arranged under countries—another valuable feature of the work, which concludes with a good and comprehensive index.